

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/965,445	9/27/01	F. Pfleger	2001P07287US
			EXAMINER
			SONG, S.
Response To Official Action			
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REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, the claims and the specification are revised. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant appreciates the consideration and return of the IDS form PTO-1449 for the IDS submitted on January 17, 2002 in the present application.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the IDS submitted in this case on July 23, 2003, after the mailing the outstanding Official Action. The Applicant asserts that the submission of these references does not affect the Examiner's conclusions in the Official Action mailed July 15, 2003 or this response thereto. The Applicant requests that the Examiner review those submitted references and initial and return form PTO-1449.

Finally, an additional IDS is being submitted in this case citing references that were provided in the International Search Report for the PCT counterpart to the present application. The Applicant further requests that the Examiner review these references and initial and return the enclosed form PTO-1449.

Objection to Specification

The specification has been objected to at line 29, page 3 for a spelling error and throughout for the use of trademarks. The specification has been amended, as presented above, to correct these informalities.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner has properly indicated that claim 20 should depend from claim 18. Claim 20 has been cancelled as described below, thereby obviating this objection.

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Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-17 and 21-27. However, Applicants submit that all of the claims presented above are in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Double Claiming.

Applicant cancels claim 31 in view of the Examiner's objection that it covers substantially the same matter as Claim 28. Claim 31 is cancelled without prejudice to file a claim similar to claim 28 but different in scope in a subsequent application.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection(s)

Claims 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,463,198 issued to Coleman et al. ("Coleman"). The Applicant respectfully points out that the Coleman patent is not a proper prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) since its grant/publication date of October 8, 2002, or alternatively the publication date of September 30, 2001, does not predate the filing of the present application (September 27, 2001) by one year or more. In view of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by the Examiner and the Applicant's cancellation of these claims in view of that rejection, the Applicant provides no response to this rejection.

Claims 28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,869,566 issued to Juso et al. ("Juso"). The Applicant cancels claim 31 as mentioned above and further cancels claim 28 and incorporates all the limitations of that claim into claim 29. Per the Examiner's comments (Official Action July 15, 2003, para.12), the Applicant alleges that claims 29 and 30 are now in condition for allowance.

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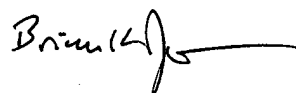
35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection(s)

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Juso. The Applicant cancels these claims without prejudice to file them in a subsequent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written petition for extension of time if needed. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,



PLEASE DIRECT ALL WRITTEN
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